



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

5 January 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: January 3, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in Monroe County. Patchy low impacts are possible for the gulfside Lower Keys today and Sunday, with low to moderate impacts possible Friday and Saturday. No impacts are expected elsewhere in SW Florida through Sunday. Dead fish have been reported between Key West and Marathon in the past few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

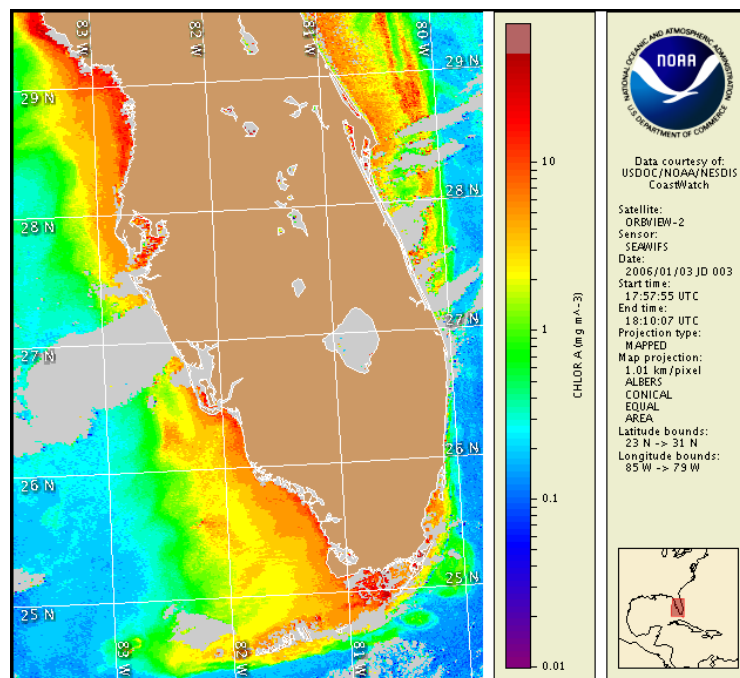
Analysis

The bloom near the Lower Keys remains present. Chlorophyll levels are continually elevated north and south of the Lower Keys, with levels highest north and southeast of Big Mullett Key (24°35'N, 81°54'W and 24°34'N, 81°53'W), inside the Marquesas Keys, and northeast of the Horseshoe Keys (24°48'N, 81°16'W). Elevated chlorophyll extends along the ocean side of the Lower Keys, out to approximately 7 miles from shore. No recent samples are available for this area. A fish kill was reported on 1/3 at Egret Lane west of Marathon. Sampling is highly recommended throughout this area. Continued transport around the Lower Keys is possible throughout the weekend. Also, a slight possibility exists for the transport of additional *K. brevis* through the Lower Keys' larger passages on Friday and Saturday with the appearance of strong north to northwesterly winds.

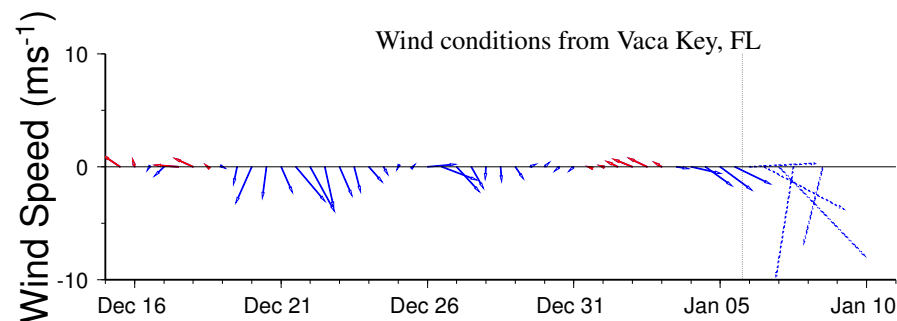
Sampling results indicate the bloom is no longer present at the SW Florida coast, although background levels remain patchy in bay and sound areas of Sarasota and Pinellas County (FWRI, 1/3). Elevated chlorophyll features remain offshore Collier and Monroe Counties near 25°36'N, 82°13'W, and offshore Lee and Collier Counties at 26°16'N, 82°27'W. Sampling, if possible, is recommended. Overall movement has been minimal; the features will likely remain offshore and continue southward migration. ~Fisher, Bronder

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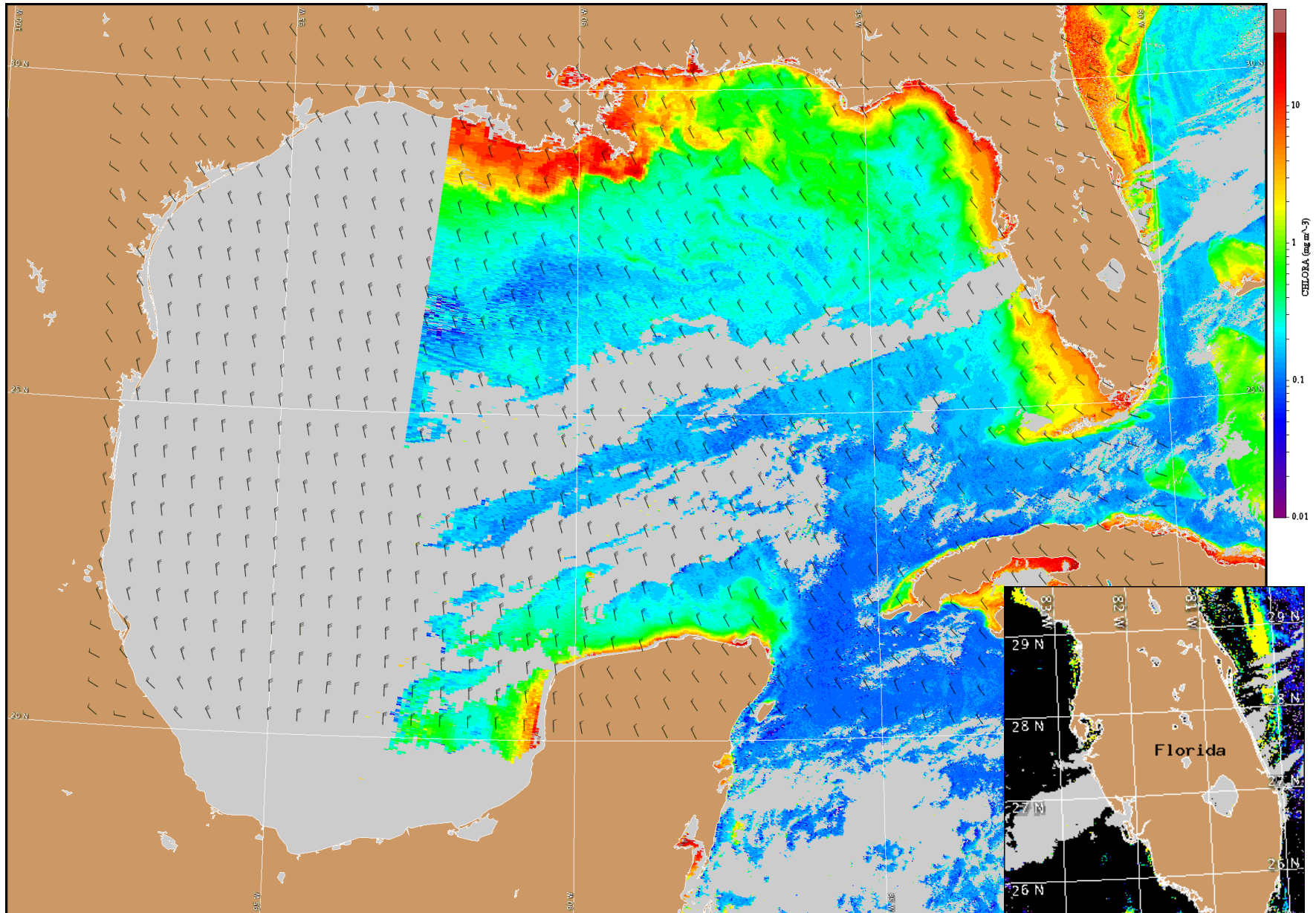
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Westerly winds (5-10kts, 3-5m/s) today will shift northwesterly, strengthening to 20kts (10m/s) after midnight through Friday. Continued northwesterlies on Saturday will weaken to 15kts (8m/s) and turn northeasterly Saturday night at 10kts (5m/s). Mild easterlies expected Sunday and Monday (5-10kts, 3-5m/s).

FL Keys: Northwest to north winds (10kts, 5m/s) today, becoming westerly this afternoon into tonight at 15kts (8m/s). Strong northwesterlies on Friday (up to 25kts, 13m/s and gusty) will shift northerly Friday night into Saturday, weakening to 15kts (8m/s). North to northeast winds near 15kts (8m/s) on Sunday. Northeast to east winds expected Monday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for January 6, 2006 12Z.

Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Naples, FL

